

Councilwoman Bonner Announces Completion of Historic Davis House Exterior Renovation

posted on 9/28/2012 10:34:27 AM

September 27, 2012

Centuries-old house in Coram will be used for local community organizations.



Councilwoman Jane Bonner (right) is pictured with Coram Civic Association President Erma Gluck in front of the Davis House.

Farmingville, NY - Councilwoman Jane Bonner has announced that renovations to the exterior of the historic Davis House in Coram have been completed after two years of work. Renovations to the interior will continue, and once completed, the Davis House will serve as a multi-use community center for local organizations.

"I am excited to see that work to the exterior of the Davis House is finally complete," said Councilwoman Bonner, "Thanks to the work of our Parks Department, this historic property, which previously sat in decay for too many years, has taken another step closer to being a benefit to our residents and community organizations."

Erma Gluck, President of the Coram Civic Association said, "One of the top reasons the Coram Civic formed was to urge the Town of Brookhaven to restore the Davis House to its former glory. Having been the seat of government for 80 years, it was important to us that this would be accomplished. We are thrilled that things have progressed to this state and are anxious to see the interior of the house completed so that it can be used for meetings and the enjoyment for all Town residents as a museum. At present, the Davis House Committee is working on what period of decor will be used in the interior of the house. To quote one of my executive board members, 'the house hasn't looked this good in 40 years.'"

For over 250 years, the house was owned by direct male descendents of Foulk Davis who arrived in Southampton, Long Island in 1642. According to local historian Davis Erhardt, the original owner of the house was probably Elijah Davis (1727-1802) who kept a tavern-inn. Beginning in the 1790s, the house served as the seat of the Town of Brookhaven government for 80 years. The inn was also used as a temperance house in the mid 1800's. By 1890, all commercial use ceased and it became solely a private residence.

Councilwoman Bonner has worked for five years with the Parks Department to restore the house, seeking funding from numerous sources and ensuring that capital funds were available. Her support of the project led to the restoration, including roof replacement; exterior restoration; masonry work; engineering services associated with the completion of the interior structural timber restoration; reconstruction of a new timber framed front porch, and completion of the exterior facade.

For more information on historical sites around the Town of Brookhaven, please visit www.brookhaven.org and www.visitbrookhaven.com

